

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 41 and 42 and cancel claims 40 and 43-48 according to the following listing of claims:

Claims 1-8. (previously cancelled)

Claim 9. (original) A process for electroless plating of plastics comprising the steps of:

- a) compounding a granular plastic with a catalyst suitable for an electroless plating reaction, said catalyst comprising a metal phosphide,
- b) forming a shaped body from the product of step a),
- c) removing at least part of the material from a surface of the shaped body of step b) to expose part of the catalyst,
- d) treating the shaped body with an acid solution to activate the exposed catalyst of step c), and
- e) metal plating the product of step d) in an electroless metal bath.

Claim 10. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein the metal phosphide is a ferrous phosphide.

Claim 11. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein the removal of material from the shaped body is carried out by contacting the shaped body with an alkaline solution.

Claim 12. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein the acid solution comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, methane sulphonc acid, sulphamic acid, acetic acid, glycine, phosphoric

acid, oxalic acid, naphthalene sulphonic acid, maleic acid, benzene sulphonic acid, trichloro acetic acid, and chromic acid.

Claim 13. (original) The process according to claim 12 wherein the acid is sulphuric acid.

Claim 14. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein the acid solution has a pH of less than about 2.

Claim 15. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein the acid solution has a pH of less than about 1.

Claim 16. (previously cancelled)

Claim 17. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein metal is plated on the shaped body at a rate of at least about 2 micrometers per hour.

Claim 18. (original) The process according to claim 9 wherein the shaped body is plated with a metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, silver, cobalt, gold, palladium, tin, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 19-25. (previously cancelled)

Claim 26. (previously amended) The process according to claim 9 wherein metal is observed to initially deposit on the shaped body in the electroless metal bath in less than about 15 minutes.

Claim 27. (previously amended) The process according to claim 9 wherein metal is observed to initially deposit on the shaped body in the electroless metal bath in less than about 10 minutes.

Claim 28. (previously amended) The process according to claim 9 wherein metal is observed to initially deposit on the shaped body in the electroless metal bath in less than about 5 minutes.

Claims 29-39. (previously cancelled)

Claim 40. (cancelled)

Claim 41. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A process in accordance with claim 40 wherein the catalyst comprises for electroless plating of plastics comprising the steps of:

- a) compounding a granular plastic with a metal phosphide catalyst suitable for an electroless plating reaction,
- b) forming a shaped body from the product of step a),
- c) contacting the shaped body of step b) with an alkaline solution to remove at least part of the material from a surface of said shaped body to expose part of the catalyst,
- d) treating the shaped body with an acid solution to activate the exposed catalyst of step c), and
- e) metal plating the product of step d) in an electroless metal bath.

Claim 42. (currently amended) [[The]] A process in accordance with claim 40 wherein the catalyst comprises for electroless plating of plastics comprising the steps of:

5 a) compounding a granular plastic with a ferrous phosphide catalyst suitable for an electroless plating reaction,

b) forming a shaped body from the product of step a),

c) contacting the shaped body of step b) with an alkaline solution to remove at least part of the material from a surface of said shaped body to expose part of the catalyst,

10 d) treating the shaped body with an acid solution to activate the exposed catalyst of step c), and

e) metal plating the product of step d) in an electroless metal bath.

Claim 43-48. (cancelled)

Claims 49-56. (previously cancelled)

Claim 57. (original) A process for electroless plating of plastics comprising the steps of:

 a) compounding a granular plastic with a catalyst suitable for an electroless plating reaction, said catalyst comprising a ferrous phosphide,

 b) forming a shaped body from the product of step a),

 c) contacting the shaped body of step b) with a sodium hydroxide solution to remove at least part of the material from a surface of said shaped body to expose part of the catalyst,

 d) treating the shaped body with a sulphuric acid solution having a pH of less than about 2 to activate the exposed catalyst of step c), and

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e) copper plating the product of step d) in an electroless metal bath to form an initial copper deposition on the shaped body in less than about 20 minutes and continuing copper plating to a thickness of at least about 20 micrometers, wherein copper is deposited on the shaped body at a rate of at least about 2 micrometers per hour.